

MARVEL[®]
ANNUAL
1

THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF INTRUSION[™]

AVENGERS

THE INITIATIVE





FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE

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"SECOND BEST"

Salvador Larroca - Artist
Stephane Peru - Color Art

"REASON FOR BEING"

Clayton Henry - Penciler
Paul Neary - Inker
Daniele Rudoni - Colorist

"BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE"

Steve Uy - Artist

"BORN TO SERVE"

Tom Feister & Carmine Di Giandomenico - Artists
Jose Villarrubia - Color Art

"STATE OF READINESS"

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THE LIBERTEENS



GAUNTLET
SGT. JOSEPH GREEN

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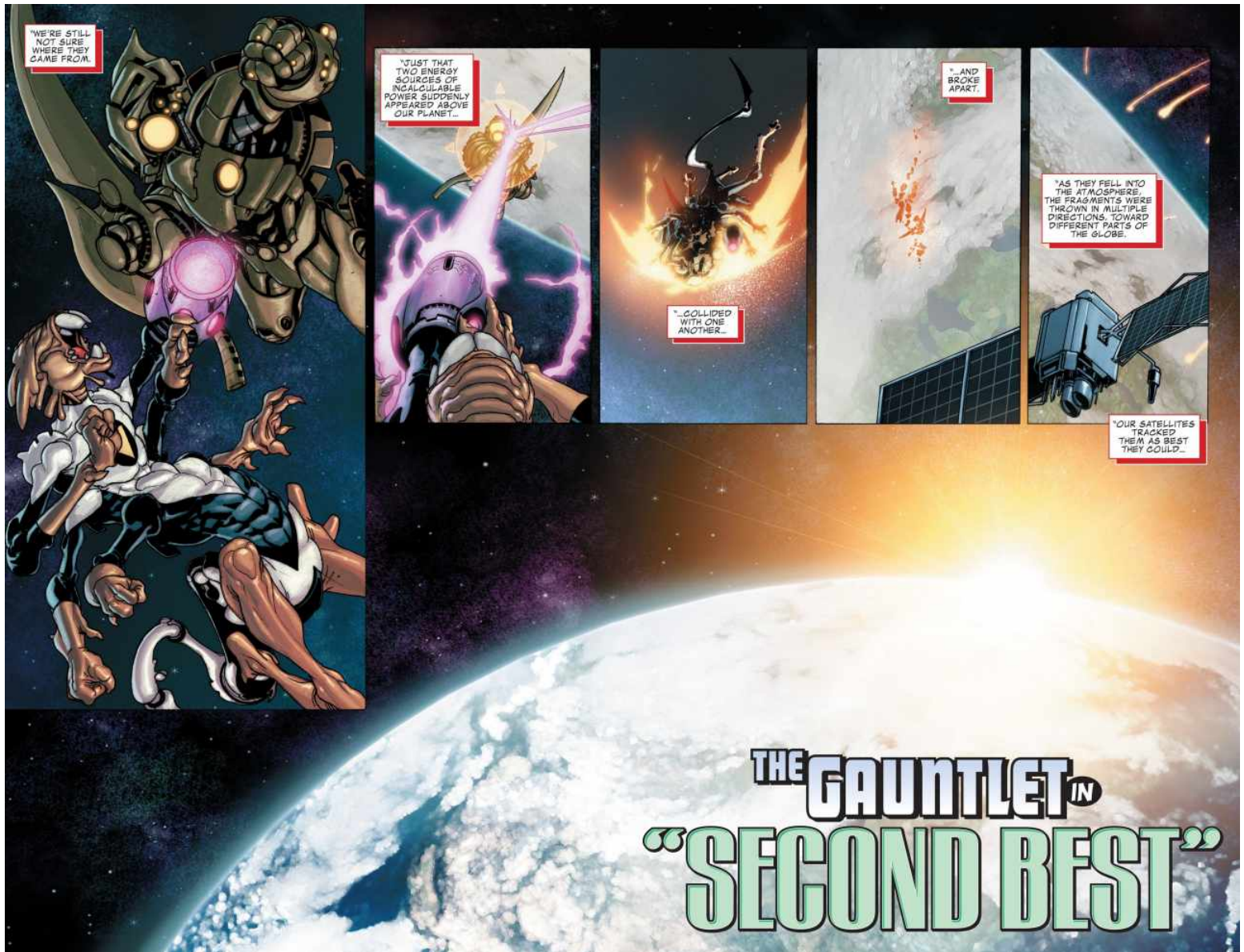
MVP



HARDBALL



ARMORY
VIOLET LIGHTNER



"WE'RE STILL NOT SURE WHERE THEY CAME FROM."

"JUST THAT TWO ENERGY SOURCES OF INCALCULABLE POWER SUDDENLY APPEARED ABOVE OUR PLANET..."

"...COLLIDED WITH ONE ANOTHER..."

"...AND BROKE APART."

"AS THEY FELL INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, THE FRAGMENTS WERE THROWN IN MULTIPLE DIRECTIONS, TOWARD DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE GLOBE."

"OUR SATELLITES TRACKED THEM AS BEST THEY COULD..."

THE GAUNTLET IN "SECOND BEST"



**The Pentagon.
Washington, D.C.**

...BUT LOST
MOST OF THEM.
WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO
FOLLOW THE MOST
POWERFUL ENERGY
SIGNATURE.

IT LANDED
IN THE **SUDAN**--
HARSH, DESERT
TERRAIN.



I DON'T
REMEMBER
HEARING ABOUT ANY OF
THIS, **SECRETARY
GYRICH**.

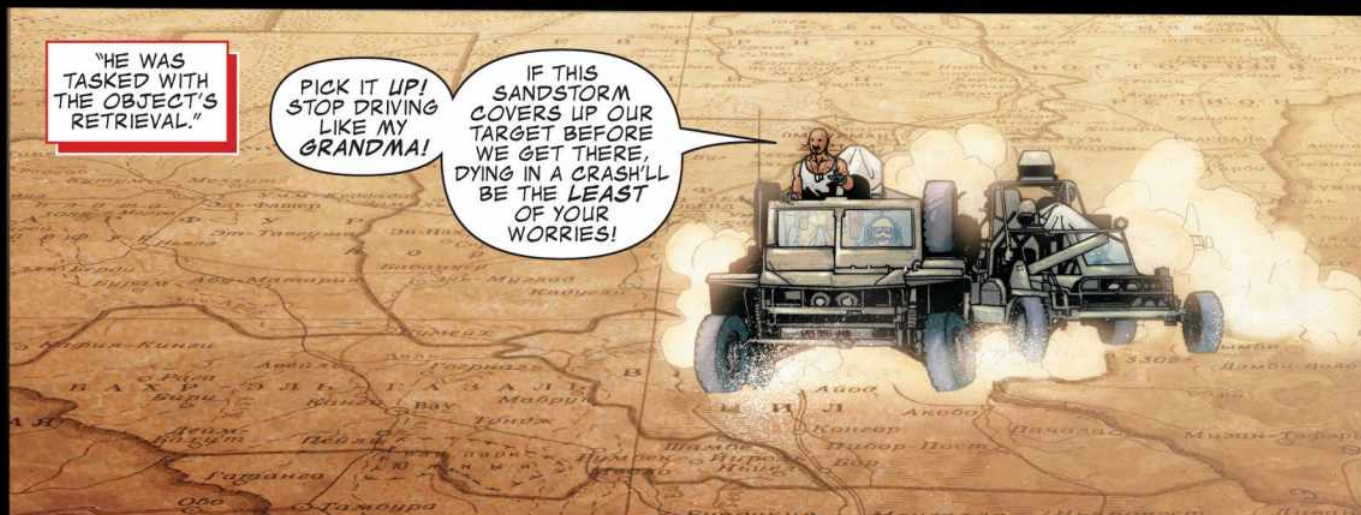
IT WAS YEARS
AGO, CONGRESSMAN--
BEFORE YOU JOINED THE
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.
AND IT WAS CLASSIFIED
TOP SECRET.

UNFORTUNATELY,
WE WEREN'T THE ONLY
ONES WHO DETECTED THE
FALLING DEBRIS. WE PICKED
UP **ANOTHER SIGNAL**
HOMING IN ON THE
OBJECT--A
HYDRA SIGNAL.



ANYTHING THAT POWERFUL, IN
THE HANDS OF **TERRORISTS**...
WELL, NEEDLESS TO SAY,
WE COULDN'T LET
THAT HAPPEN.

FORTUNATELY,
ONE OF THE U.S.
MILITARY'S MOST HIGHLY
DECORATED NON-COMS
WAS IN THE AREA--**Sgt.
JOSEPH GREEN**.



"HE WAS
TASKED WITH
THE OBJECT'S
RETRIEVAL."

PICK IT UP!
STOP DRIVING
LIKE MY
GRANDMA!

IF THIS
SANDSTORM
COVERS UP OUR
TARGET BEFORE
WE GET THERE,
DYING IN A CRASH'LL
BE THE LEAST
OF YOUR
WORRIES!





THERE THEY
ARE... TWO OF 'EM.
SANDSTORM
HASN'T COVERED
'EM OVER YET. AND
I'M THE FIRST...



...HELL.



CLICK
CLICK

GOTCHA
YOU MOTHER-
LOVIN'--

##\$%&!
TOO MUCH
SAND! MY
GUN'S--

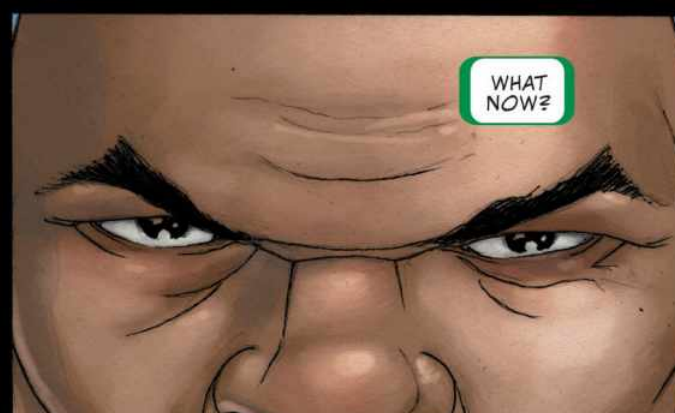


CLICK
CLICK

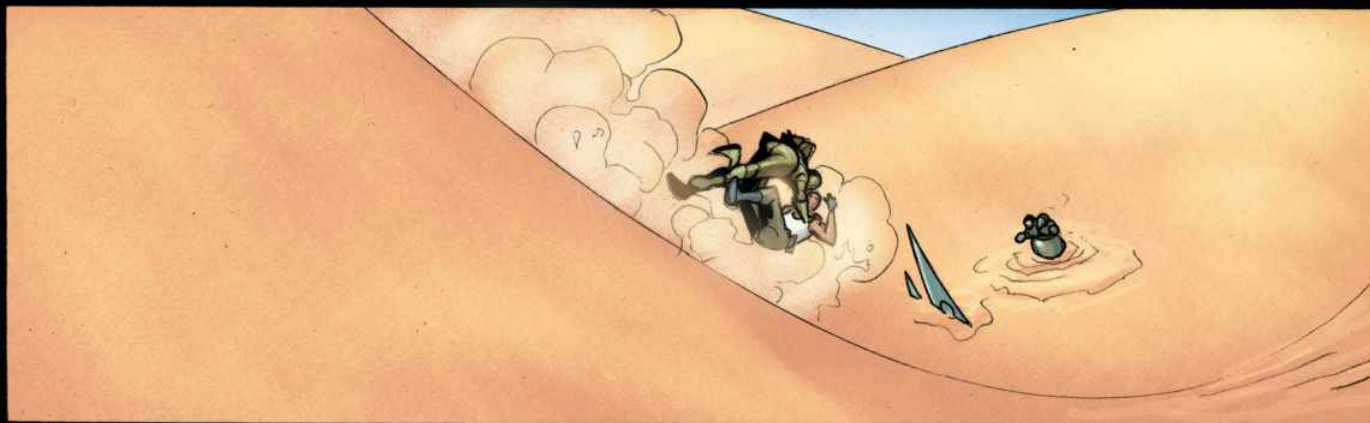
--JAMMED.
HA. YOU
TOO.



SO?



WHAT
NOW?





CRAZY GLOVE-THING
SAVED MY BUTT. AIN'T WHAT
I CAME FOR, THOUGH;
THE BIG ONE'S THE REAL
POWER SOURCE. SO
I'LL JUST TAKE THIS...



...WON'T...COME OFF--?
NO! THERE'S GOT TO
BE A WAY! GOTTA BE
SOME WAY TO GET
THIS DAMN...THING--

--OFF!!

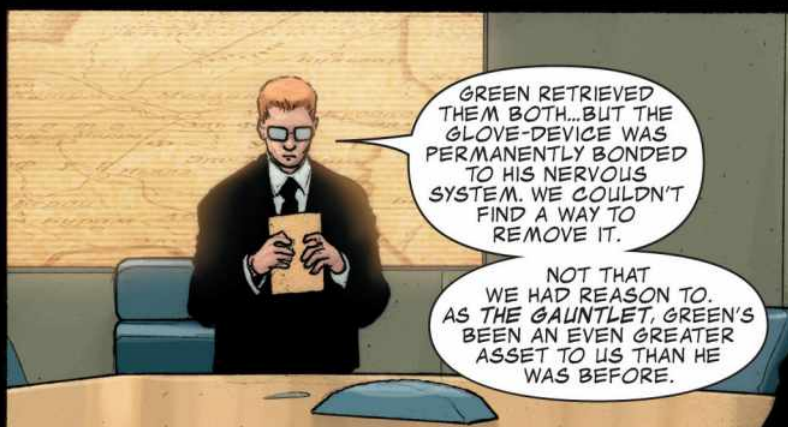


SUCK IT UP, GREEN.
WHAT'D YOU TELL YOUR
MEN? THERE'S NO PRIZE
FOR SECOND BEST?

GUESS I
WAS WRONG.
SOMETIMES
THERE IS.



SOMETIMES
YOU CARRY IT WITH
YOU FOR THE REST
OF YOUR LIFE.



UNLESS
I'M MISTAKEN,
MR. GYRICH, HE'S
NOT MUCH OF AN
ASSET NOW.

HE'S IN A **COMA**. WITH NO ASSURANCE OF WHEN--OR IF--HE'LL COME OUT OF IT.

CAN WE REALLY AFFORD TO KEEP ONE OF OUR GREATEST WEAPONS INACTIVE? PERHAPS WE SHOULD CONSIDER MORE... **DRASTIC METHODS** OF REMOVAL.



AMPUTATION COULD JUST CRIPPLE ONE OF OUR BEST MEN...AND RENDER THE DEVICE **USELESS**.

THAT'S **EXACTLY** WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SUBJECT IN OUR NEXT FILE, **ARMORY**. SHE HAD AN ALIEN DEVICE GRAFTED TO HER ARM AS WELL.



AND SINCE WE SURGICALLY REMOVED IT, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THE DAMN THING WORK. IT MIGHT JUST BE THAT THESE THINGS **BOND** WITH THEIR ORIGINAL HOSTS.

THEN SGT. GREEN'S CONDITION IS MOST UNFORTUNATE. HOW EXACTLY DID THAT HAPPEN, MR. GYRICH?

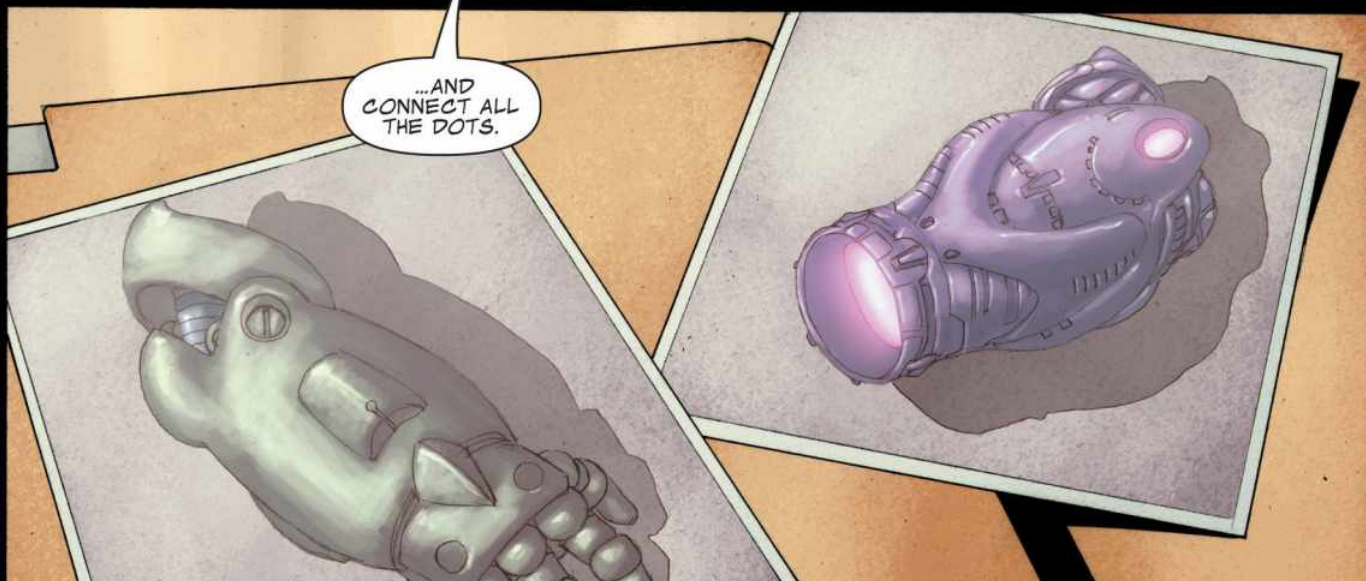
THAT'S...NOT IMPORTANT FOR OUR PURPOSES, CONGRESSMAN WOODMAN. AND THIS BRIEFING IS ALREADY KEEPING ME FROM MORE URGENT MATTERS. WE SHOULD MOVE ON TO THE NEXT FILE.



BY ALL MEANS, MR. SECRETARY, DO CONTINUE.

YOU'RE DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB. I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO SEE THE BIG PICTURE...

...AND **CONNECT ALL THE DOTS**.



...TELLING YOU, DR. BURKE, EVERYTHING'S FINE. I FEEL GREAT. IT'S LIKE I'M A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON THAN WHEN I WAS HERE BEFORE.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, VIOLET. AND I BELIEVE EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE. BUT ONE DOESN'T GO THROUGH WHAT YOU DID...

**The Burke
Wellness Center.**

**San Francisco,
California.**

...WITHOUT
IT LEAVING
SCARS.

HAVE YOU
BEEN CUTTING YOURSELF
AGAIN, VIOLET? DO YOU
STILL FEEL THE DEPRESSION...
THE URGES TO HURT YOURSELF?
WE CAN PUT YOU BACK ON
MEDICATION--

I DIDN'T
DO THAT TO
MYSELF, DOCTOR.
SOMEONE ELSE
DID THAT
TO ME.

"IT WASN'T
LIKE BEFORE."

DON'T DO
IT, KID. COME ON
DOWN. WHATEVER'S
WRONG, WE
CAN FIX IT.

ARMORY IN

"REASON FOR BEING"

YOU
CAN'T FIX
MY LIFE.

NO ONE
CAN.

"I READ ABOUT A
STUDY THEY DID OF
PEOPLE WHO JUMPED
OFF A BRIDGE AND LIVED.
ONCE THEY'D JUMPED,
THEY ALL WISHED
THEY HADN'T.

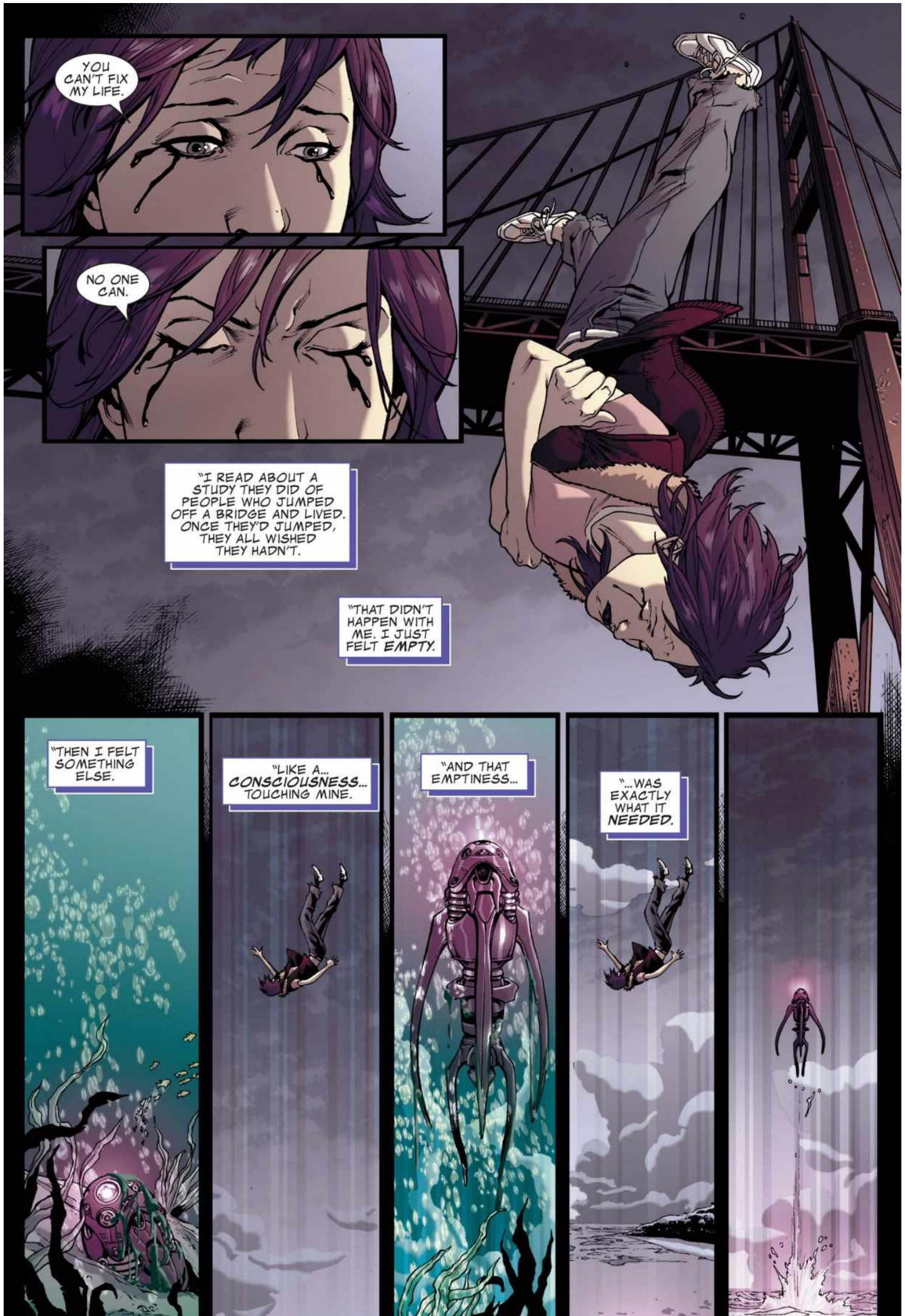
"THAT DIDN'T
HAPPEN WITH
ME. I JUST
FELT EMPTY.

"THEN I FELT
SOMETHING
ELSE.

"LIKE A...
CONSCIOUSNESS...
TOUCHING MINE.

"AND THAT
EMPTYNESS...

"...WAS
EXACTLY
WHAT IT
NEEDED.





"I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT IT WAS, THIS...
THING WRAPPING
ITSELF AROUND
MY ARM.



"BUT IT
KNEW.



"IT'S NOT LIKE
IT SPOKE TO
ME OR ANYTHING.
BUT SOMEHOW I
UNDERSTOOD
WHAT IT WAS. A
WEAPON, FROM...
SOMEWHERE
ELSE...



"AND IT
KNEW WHAT I
NEEDED.



"...THAT COULD BECOME
WHATEVER ITS WEARER NEEDED
THE MOST. AND WHAT I NEEDED



"...WAS A
REASON
FOR BEING.

"I GOT ONE."



"HELPING PEOPLE..."



"...TAKING ON BULLIES EVERYONE ELSE WAS AFRAID OF..."



"...SHOWING PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE ALL ALONE THAT SOMEONE CARED ABOUT THEM."

"IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE I MATTERED."



"AND WHEN IRON MAN STARTED THE INITIATIVE..."

"...I SAW THE CHANCE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE."



"THANK YOU."

"REGISTERED:"



"WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT SEEMED
LIKE FATE."

ON YOUR
TOES, PEOPLE.
ULTIMO'S GOT
SOME SERIOUS
FIREPOWER, AND
THAT METAL
HIDE OF HIS IS
VIRTUALLY...



...INDESTRUCTIBLE.

CHOOOM



WHAT IN HADES?
WONDER MAN,
DID YOU...?

DON'T
LOOK AT ME,
ARES. I DIDN'T
DO A THING.

YEAH,
THAT'D BE
ME.



THE
NAME'S
ARMORY.

SO, MIGHTY
AVENGERS, HUHZ
WHERE DO I
SIGN UP?



I REMEMBER THE AVENGERS FIGHTING THAT ROBOT, BUT NO MENTION OF YOU. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

WELL, THAT'S THE KICKER, DOC. I CAN'T REALLY TELL YOU.

THEY SENT ME TO CAMP HAMMOND, THE BOOT CAMP FOR HEROES IN TRAINING, ALONG WITH OTHERS LIKE TRAUMA, KOMODO, CLOUD NINE AND HARBALL.

BUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS THERE IS CLASSIFIED.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? THEY TRAINED ME, AND I WAS DOING GREAT...

...NOTHING COULD STOP ME.

YOU WERE DOING GREAT, AND THEN DID SOMETHING GO WRONG?

NEH, TRY EVERYTHING.

TRAUMA, WHOSE POWER IS TO BECOME WHATEVER SCARES YOU MOST, TURNED INTO A GIANT SPIDER.

I'VE BEEN TERRIFIED OF SPIDERS EVER SINCE THAT FILTHY FOSTER HOME WHERE THEY'D CRAWL ALL OVER ME EVERY NIGHT.

NOTHING HAPPENED, DOCTOR.

VIOLET, YOU HAVE TO OPEN UP. YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING. IT'S ALL CONFIDENTIAL. NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER KNOW.

WHATEVER HAPPENED-- WHATEVER YOU MIGHT HAVE DONE-- WE CAN WORK THROUGH IT.

I TOLD YOU. NOTHING HAPPENED.

NOTHING AT ALL.



LOOK, YOU GOT ME. I MADE IT ALL UP. THE OUTER SPACE GIZMO, THE AVENGERS. EVERYTHING.

I GOT THESE SCRATCHES...GETTING A CAT OUT OF A TREE.



SO? WE DONE HERE OR WHAT?



I'M SORRY, VIOLET, BUT YOU DON'T LEAVE ME MUCH CHOICE. YOU WON'T BE HONEST WITH ME, AND I'M CONCERNED YOU MAY BE A DANGER TO YOURSELF.

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DENY YOUR OUTPATIENT STATUS, READMIT YOU, AND KEEP YOU UNDER SURVEILLANCE.



IF YOU DECIDE YOU'RE READY TO TELL ME WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, I'LL BE RIGHT HERE.

REMEMBER, YOU CAN COUNT ON DOCTOR/PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

WHATEVER.



SECRETARY GYRICH? IT'S DOCTOR BURKE. I'VE JUST FINISHED MY SESSION WITH VIOLET.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. WHATEVER OTHER PROBLEMS SHE MIGHT HAVE... THE GIRL CAN KEEP A SECRET.

**The Healing Hand
New Age Shop.
Washington, D.C.**

CONGRESSMAN.
GOT SOME NEW
CRYSTALS IN THAT
CAN HELP ADJUST
YOUR CHAKRAS.

IT'S ME,
IDIOT, AND I'M
LATE. JUST
OPEN IT.

DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT, SIR.

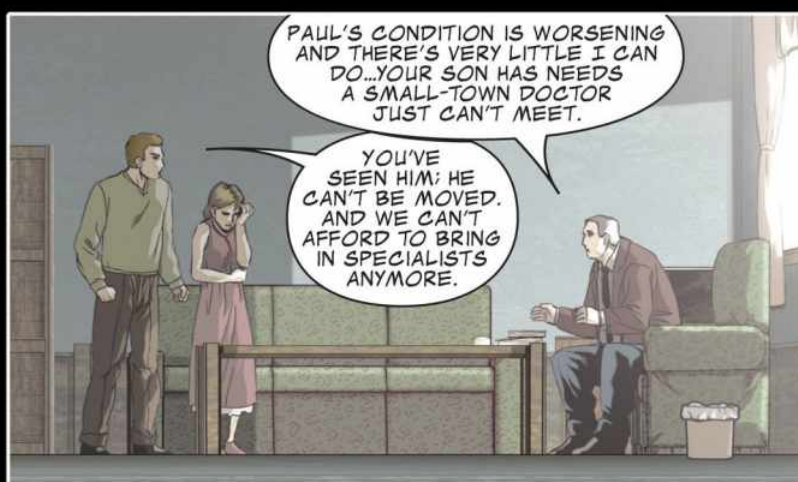


**HAIL HYDRA! IMMORTAL HYDRA!
CUT OFF A LIMB AND TWO MORE
SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE!**

COMMANDER
WOODMAN, HYDRA
COMMANDERS FROM
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY
HAVE COME TO HEAR
YOUR REPORT.

TELL US
ALL WE NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT
HARDBALL.







Power Broker, Inc.

YOU WERE WISE TO COME SEE ME, ROGER. JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU, I CAN TELL YOU'RE A YOUNG MAN WITH BIG DREAMS.

I'M THE KIND OF PERSON THAT CAN MAKE THOSE DREAMS COME TRUE.



BUT BE WARNED... TRUE POWER ALWAYS COMES WITH A PRICE.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO PAY THAT PRICE, ROGER?



THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GONNA PAY IS YOU!

DID YOU USE THAT LAME SALES PITCH ON MY BROTHER? TELL HIM HE'D BE THE UNLIMITED CLASS WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMP?



YOU MADE HIM THINK HE WAS UNBEATABLE! YOU NEVER TOLD HIM YOU'D MAKE OTHER GUYS EVEN STRONGER THAN HIM!

ONE BAD MATCH AND NOW HE'S CRIPPLED FOR LIFE! MY FAMILY'S GONNA LOSE EVERYTHING! WELL, GUESS WHAT, BIG SHOT--SO ARE YOU!



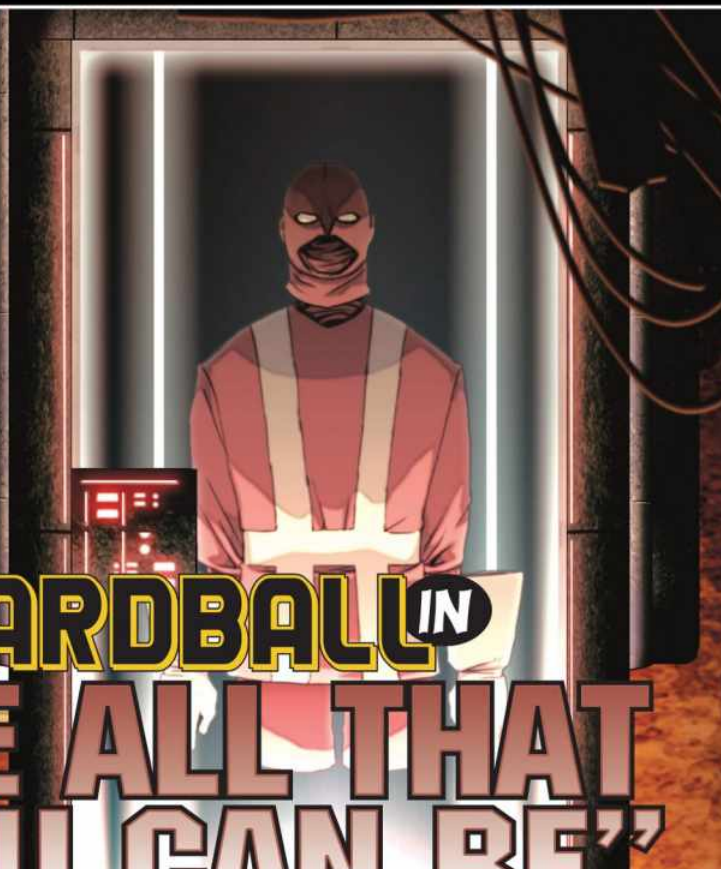
HEH. WRONG.











MEMO
FROM: Baron Wernher von Blitzschlag
TO: Secretary Henry P. Gyrich
Personal and Confidential

Herr Gyrich: Per your request, I am compiling what I have learned about Michael Van Patrick, code-named MVP.

Today.
Baron Von Blitzschlag's Quarters.

As you know, the majority of my life has been spent in pursuit of creating der übermensch--what you Americans call "the Super-soldier."

After Mr. Van Patrick's unfortunate accident, I finally found myself with the opportunity to dissect one. To my surprise, I found...nothing.

For years I labored for the Reich to create übermenschen such as Master Man, Warrior Woman, and Vunder Knight.

To my shame, none of them held a candle to your country's Kapitän Amerika...

...or, for that matter, the genetic potential of this young man.

And I had no idea why. Why the family of this ordinary American boy should have succeeded where my genius failed.

Fortunately, in this age of marvels, one need not be a hen to lay an egg.

MVP IN

"POPP TO SERVE"





HEY, KID,
SHUT UP! I'M
TRYING TO
CONCENTRATE
HERE.

COME
VITH ME,
YOUNG MAN, AND
ALL SHALL BE
REVEALED.



THANKS TO
HERR TASKMASTER,
UND TELEMETRY CIRCUITS
IN HIS SUIT, ALL OF MVP'S
SKILLS HAVE BEEN
PROGRAMMED
INTO...

...THESE
CLONES. YOU
SEE, YOU ARE ALL
THAT MICHAEL
VAN PATRICK
VAS...



...UND
MORE.

OKAY...
START RUNNING
THE SPIDER-MAN
FOOTAGE.



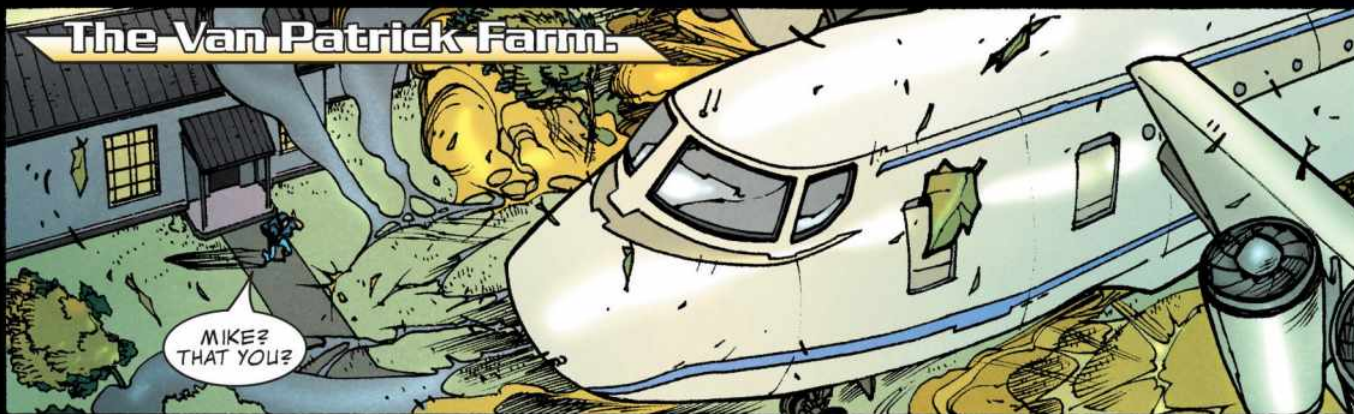
WAIT.
I'M A...
CLONE?

I DON'T
FEEL LIKE
A CLONE...



Liberty, Kentucky.







IF I RECALL,
MY BOY AND
I WERE
PERFECTLY
CLEAR ABOUT
THAT.

QUITE HONESTLY, SIR, WE
DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU. MICHAEL
IS AN OPTIMUM HUMAN.
WE JUST DIDN'T THINK SUCH
A THING WAS POSSIBLE
WITHOUT, WELL...

HOW DID
YOU DO IT,
HERR VAN
PATRICK?



SIMPLE. THIS
IS DR. ABRAHAM
ERSKINE... MY
GRANDFATHER.
MICHAEL'S GREAT-
GRANDFATHER.

HE WAS
RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE SUPER-SOLDIER
EXPERIMENT THAT CREATED
CAPTAIN AMERICA...
YOU'RE FAMILIAR
WITH IT?

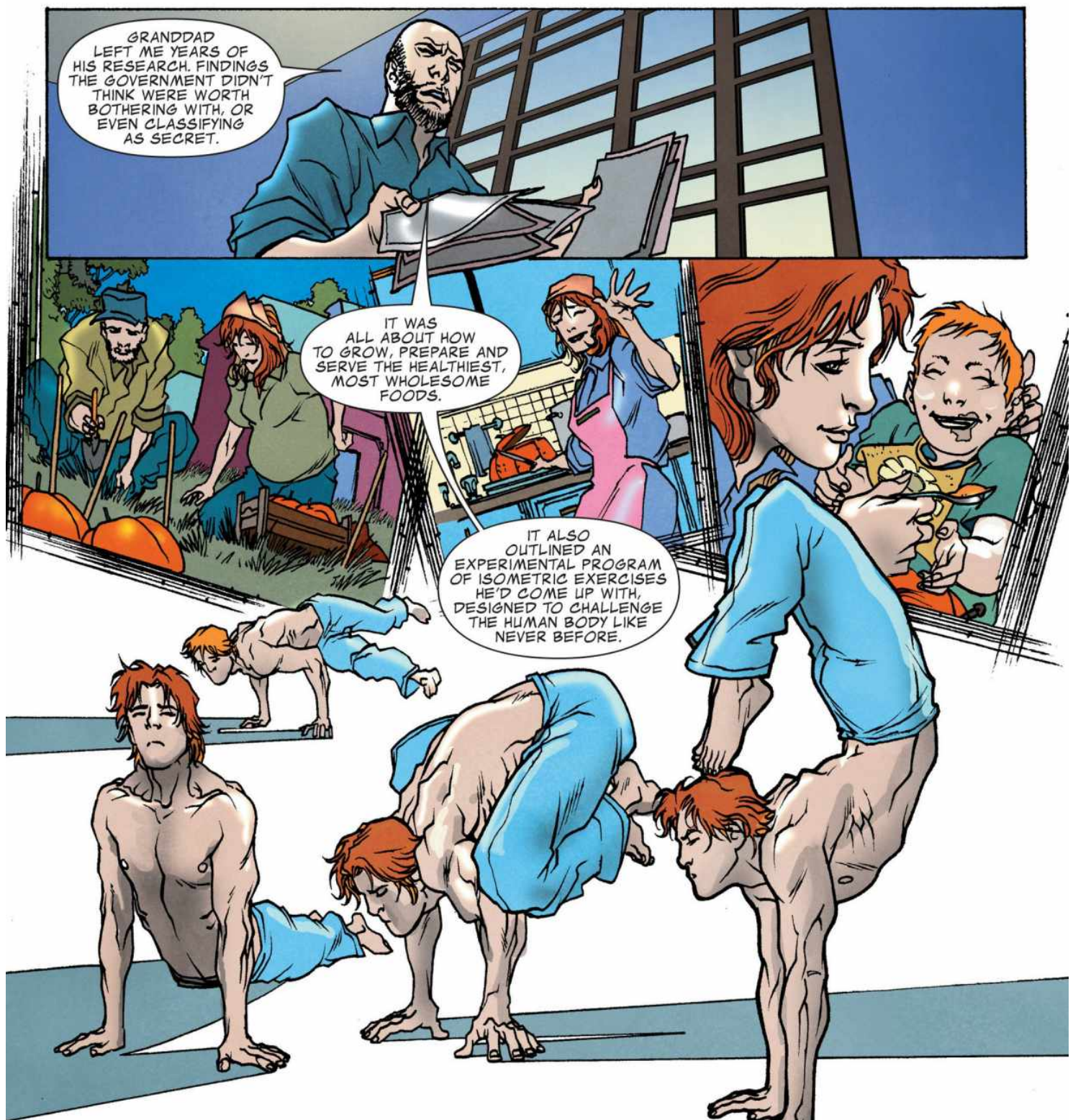
JA...
QUITE FAMILIAR.
ONE UFF MY
FRIENDS VAS
THERE, IN
FACT...

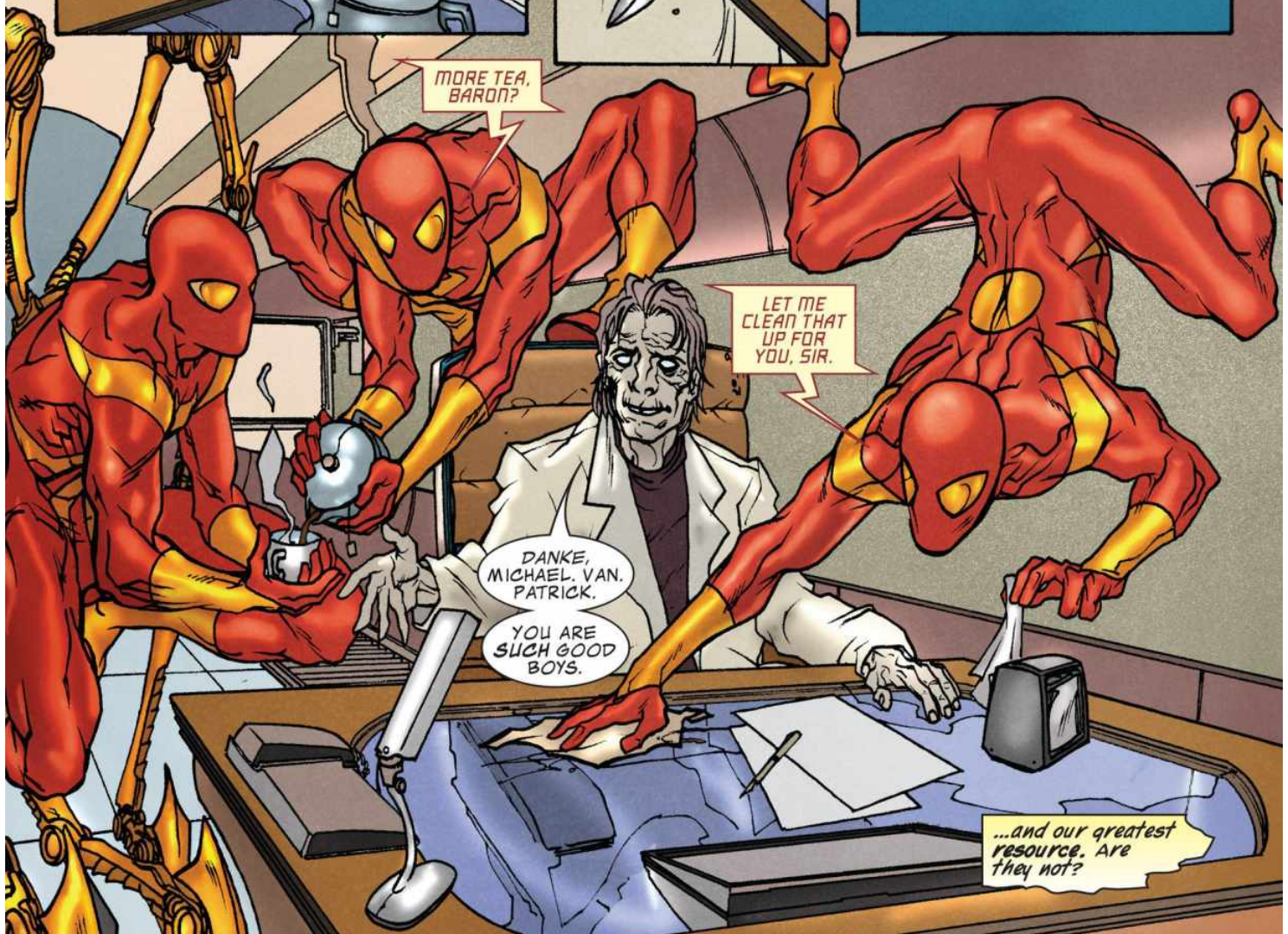
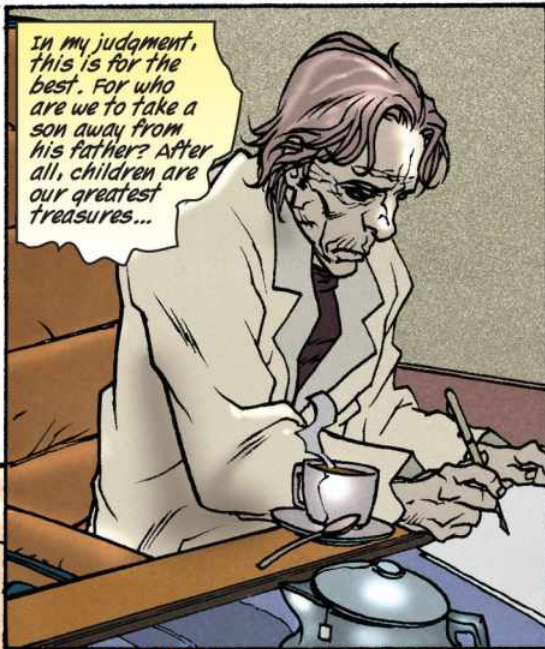
HIS
NAME VAS
HEINZ.



HE HAD A
LOVELY SINGING
VOICE, UND HE BUILT
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
MODEL SHIPS...

MY
APOLOGIES.
YOU WERE
SAYING?







Camp Hammond.

...THE
REVOLUTIONARY
REPORTING IN AS
ORDERED, SIR. THIS LINE
IS CONFIRMED
SECURE.



PROCEED,
REVOLUTIONARY.
I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE
HAD AN EVENTFUL
DAY.

THAT'S AFFIRMATIVE, SIR.
PHILADELPHIA ISN'T EXACTLY
A HOTBED OF SUPERHUMAN
ACTIVITY, SO OUR DUTIES HAVE
BEEN MOSTLY RESCUE
AND RELIEF...
UNTIL NOW.

IT SEEMS EVEN
TERRORISTS ARE
OUTSOURCING THESE
DAYS. WE LEARNED HYDRA
WAS SUPPLYING MONEY AND
WEAPONS TO A RADICAL
GROUP CALLED ULTIMATUM...

...LED BY
A NEW FLAG-
SMASHER.

FALL
BACK! IT'S NO
USE! THEY'RE
TOO HEAVILY
ARMORED!

**BLAM
BLAM**

GOOD WORK,
MEN! TODAY WE
STRIKE AT THE HEART OF
AMERICA
ITSELF!

KILLING
CIVILIANS IS USELESS.
THEY'LL JUST BREED
MORE IN THEIR TRAILER
PARKS AND GHETTOS. BUT
OUR ACTIONS WILL BE
FATAL TO AMERICA'S
VERY SOUL--



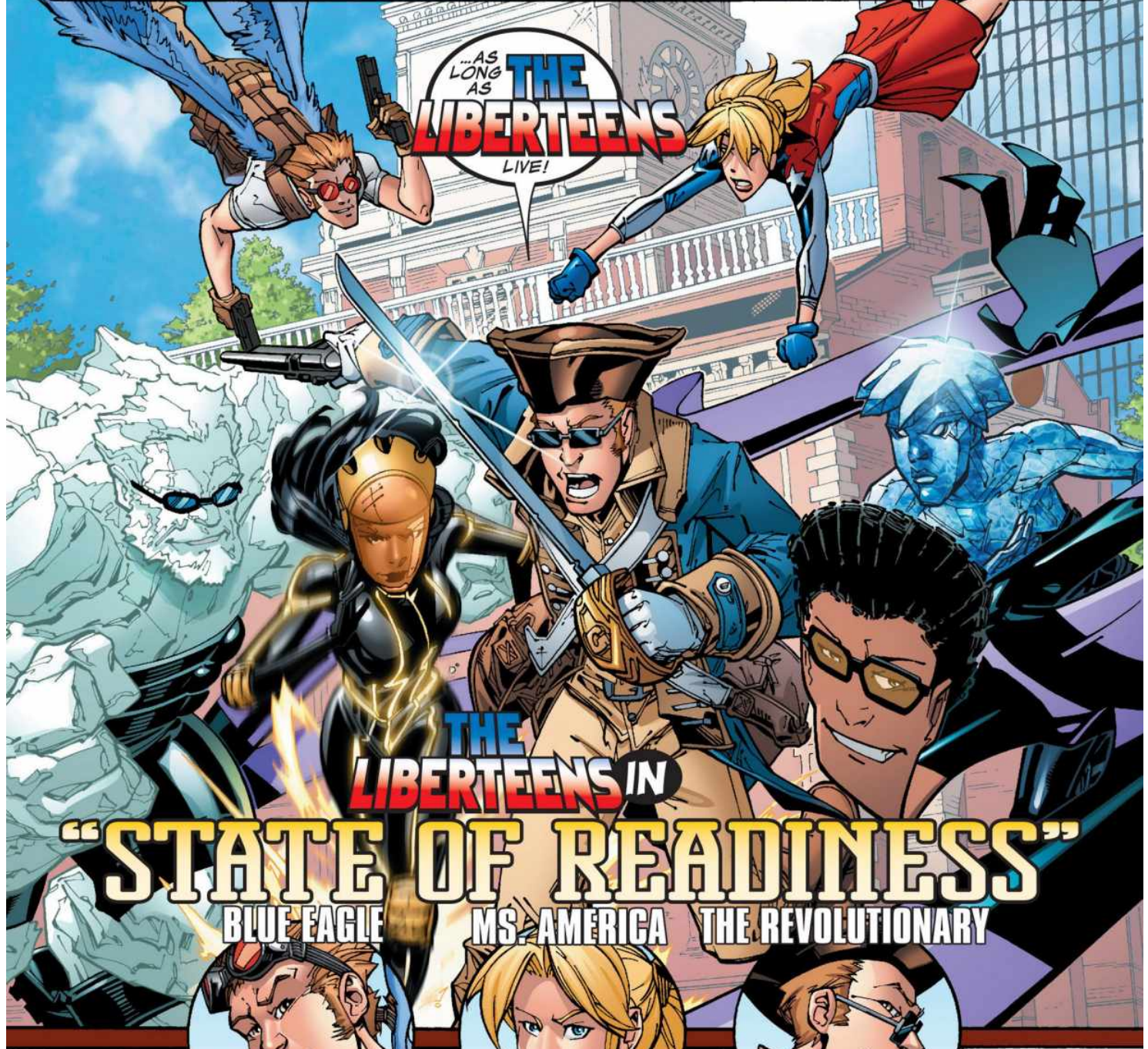
--WHEN I
DESTROY THE
SYMBOL OF THEIR
SO-CALLED
FREEDOM!

KRESCH



THE LIBERTY
BELL...HAH! TRUE
LIBERTY WILL ONLY
COME WHEN
AMERICA
FALLS...

...AND NOW
I STRIKE THE
BLOW THAT SOUNDS
THE DEATH-KNELL
OF THE AMERICAN
DREAM.



ICEBERG

WHIZ KID

HOPE

2-D







Liberty's Lair, Headquarters Of The Liberteens.





...SO AS YOU CAN SEE, SIR, EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN. PENNSYLVANIA IS A ROUSING SUCCESS.

AMERICA COULDN'T BE HAPPIER WITH THE FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE.



AND AS LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP UP YOUR END AT CAMP HAMMOND...



...AND PRODUCE ENOUGH TEAMS FOR FULL NATIONWIDE COVERAGE...

AGREED.



IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL WE HAVE...

...A
**SKRULL
IN EVERY
STATE!**

